



CS 10 Landfill Cleanup FACT SHEET

Produced by McClellan AFB Environmental Management

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A panoramic view of Confirmed Site 10 (CS 10).



McClellan Air Force Base to Clean Up Radiologically Contaminated Landfill

McClellan Air Force Base will be conducting a Time Critical Removal Action at Confirmed Site 10 (CS 10) to remove radioactive soil and buried waste. A Time Critical Removal Action is an action to prevent, limit, or mitigate an emergency. The Air Force initiated a Time Critical Removal Action at CS 10 to prevent potential human or environmental exposure.

The site is an inactive landfill, less than two acres, approximately 30-foot-deep, and located in the central western side of the base in an undeveloped area west of the runway.

The CS 10 project is part of the Air Force's environmental restoration effort at McClellan. Excavation work at the site was stopped on September 6, 2000, when several jars and vials labeled "plutonium" were unearthed, and the site was secured.

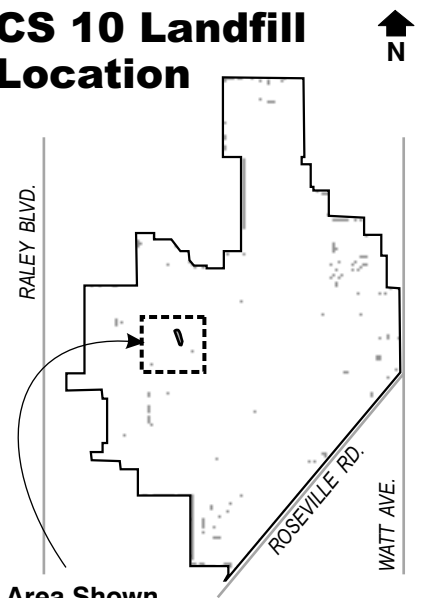
CS 10 is being prepared for the excavation work to begin this spring. CS 10 will be completely excavated. The drums and contaminated material will be characterized and taken to the appropriate off-base landfill site. Contamination at the site will be cleaned up and filled with clean soil.

The public comment period will be from February 1 to March 2, 2001.

A public informational meeting will be held on February 15, 2001.

See back page for details.

CS 10 Landfill Location



Area Shown
in Detail Map
on Page 2

0 4000
Scale in Feet

CS 10 HISTORY

Early 1950s to mid-1960s:

Records indicate CS 10 was an active disposal pit

1981:

Site identified and initially listed in Installation Restoration Program as a rubble and industrial waste site

1994:

Radiologically marked drums found. Groundwater monitoring wells in the area were checked, and the results were non-detect

1997-2000:

Investigative and cleanup documents prepared and regulatory/community coordination done (including public meeting held December 7, 1999, and public comment period December 1, 1999 through February 28, 2000)

August 15, 2000:

Removal action at CS 10 began

September 6, 2000:

Site excavation stopped and site secured after containers of liquid labeled “plutonium” discovered

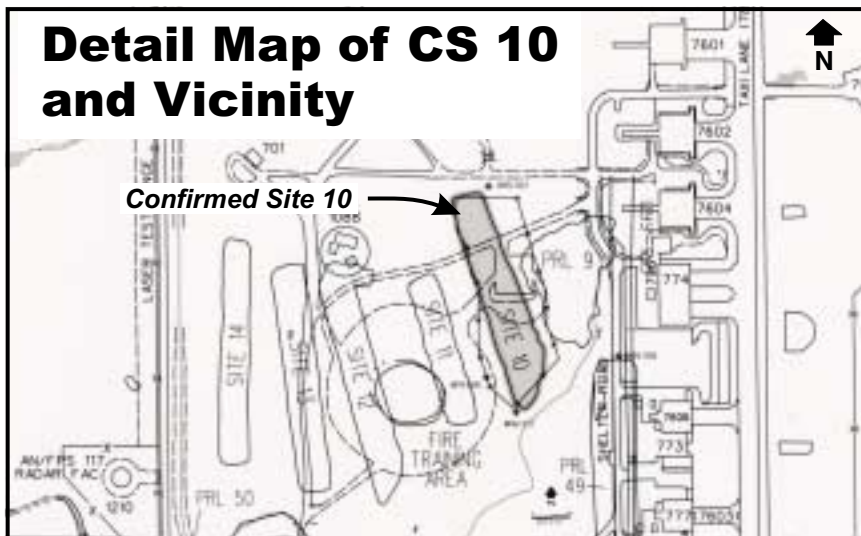
Since September 6, 2000:

Containers of liquid containing plutonium were sent to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for research

Current Status:

- On-going air monitoring at CS 10, with no detections above background levels
- Groundwater monitoring wells in the area were checked, and the results were non-detect
- The site is safe and secure

Detail Map of CS 10 and Vicinity



The Events in September 2000

While conducting a removal action at CS 10, a known radiological site, work was halted as a safety precaution after several small jars and vials containing a liquid were uncovered. The jars were labeled with the chemical symbol for plutonium. The liquid was confirmed as containing a small amount of plutonium, most likely used for laboratory purposes.

Base officials expected to uncover sources of radiation, primarily radium 226, which was commonly added to paint and used on aircraft gauges for night-time illumination. Because of the known radiation present, site workers had already established protocols to safely explore for radioactive material. There was no exposure to workers, employees, or residents. The bottles and vials containing plutonium in liquid were removed from the base following strict Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Department of Transportation procedures. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), a facility licensed to research radioactive material, will use the plutonium for academic research.

Time Critical Removal Action

The original work at CS 10 was to remove the surface soil and characterize the landfill. From this investigation further removal actions were to be proposed. With the discovery of plutonium, which was not expected in the landfill, the Air Force, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board agree that a Time Critical Removal Action of the site is appropriate. A Time Critical Removal Action requires that a work plan be prepared and the work started within a six-month time frame.

The Air Force will prepare a work plan which the agencies will review. CS 10 will be excavated to remove construction debris, buried drums, hazardous materials, and soil contaminated with radium.

The existing excavated areas are currently lined to prevent rainwater from infiltrating through the pits and possibly moving contamination deeper. Water that is collected in the lined excavations is being pumped to a storage tank and sampled. The sample results will be evaluated to ensure proper disposal of the water.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The Action Memorandum and investigative and supporting documentation pertaining to the site are available to the public in the McClellan Air Force Base Administrative Record (AR). The AR is located on McClellan Air Force Base, Building 269D. It is open Monday–Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and alternate Fridays beginning January 23, 2001.

For more information on the AR, contact Laraine McQuillen at (916) 643-1742 ext. 301.

List of Documents Available

- *CS 10 and PRL 32 Engineering Evaluation /Cost Analysis*, September 1999
- *Action Memorandum for Confirmed Site 10 McClellan Air Force Base California*, November 2000
- *CS 10 and PRL 32 Removal Action Work Plan*, July 2000
- *Interim Basewide Remedial Investigation Report Part C (Northern) - Remedial Investigation Characterization Summaries for Investigation Clusters 17, 19, and 21*, January 1998
- *Background Survey for Radionuclides Report*, January 2000
- *CS 10 and PRL 32 Removal Action Memorandum for Soil Removal*, May 2000
- *Interim Basewide Remedial Investigation Report Final Part 2C1 - RI Characterization Summary*, April 1995
- *Operable Unit C RI/FS Sampling and Analysis Plan*, May 1994
- *Surface Radiological Characterization Summary for Operable Unit C Final*, August 1995
- *Interim Basewide Remedial Investigation Report Part 2C - Site Characterization Summary/Field Sampling Plans and Remedial Investigation Characterization Summaries*, August 1997
- *Background Survey for Radionuclides Field Sampling Plan*, August 1998
- *McClellan AFB Data Gap Field Sampling Plan - 4*, September 1999
- *Data Gap 5 Field Sampling Plan Addendum Magpie Creek and Don Julio Creek*, August 1999



The original work at CS 10 was to remove the surface soil and characterize the landfill.



Jars and vials containing plutonium were uncovered on September 6, 2000.

The excavation method will be a combination of mechanical digging and hand digging. Three to four feet of soil will be removed using a backhoe. Hand digging, referred to as an archeological dig, will be used to uncover and remove drums and other debris. Hand digging preserves the drums as much as possible and decreases the chance of inadvertently damaging them, causing the contents to spill. This type of removal is to ensure safety of the workers and protect the environment.

A tent will be erected over the entire site before excavation begins. During excavation the tent will allow ventilation control to minimize potential airborne contaminants. Water misting will also be used to control the dust. The amount of water used to maintain dust control will be monitored to prevent runoff. Any runoff will be contained, sampled, and the results evaluated to ensure proper disposal.

All workers in the pit will wear protective clothing and be monitored for radiation. The tent will be a controlled area, and strict personnel monitoring and dressing procedures will be used to ensure that loose surface contamination does not spread from the tent.

The excavated soil and debris will be placed in enclosed bins and sent for disposal to a certified landfill. A transportation plan will be issued specifying transportation routes from the base to the highway to ensure direct control of waste shipments. The proposed route is to exit the base from the Roseville Road Gate to Roseville Road, proceeding on Longview Drive to I-80. It is expected that as much as 33,000 cubic yards of soil/debris will be removed from the site.

Public Comment Period

A public comment period on this cleanup action will be held from Thursday, February 1, 2001, to Friday, March 2, 2001.

To comment, please write to:

SM-ALC/EM
Attn: Merianne Briggs
5050 Dudley Blvd., Suite 3
McClellan AFB, CA 95652-1389

**Comments should be postmarked
by March 2, 2001**

Written or oral comments may be provided at the informational public meeting on February 15, 2001.

The Air Force will prepare a response to the comments received; the response will be available in the Administrative Record at McClellan AFB.

For additional information or questions about CS 10, contact:

Merianne Briggs (916) 643-1742 ext. 457
- or -
Roxanne Yonn (916) 643-1742 ext. 354

PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, February 15, 2001

6:00 p.m.

Fred C. Joyce School
6050 Watt Avenue
North Highlands

For information about the McClellan AFB Environmental Program, you may also contact:

Diane Fowler
Public Participation Specialist
Cal-EPA/Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
(916) 322-9422

David Cooper
Community Relations Specialist
U.S. EPA
(415) 744-2179 or (800) 231-3075

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**For More Information
about McClellan's Installation Restoration
Program, please call:**

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